

XXXV.—*Notices of recent Ornithological Publications.*

[Continued from p. 565.]

73. '*Annals of Scottish Natural History.*'

[The *Annals of Scottish Natural History*. A Quarterly Magazine, with which is incorporated the '*Scottish Naturalist*.' April, July, 1910.]

Fair Isle continues to hold its own as a field for the northern ornithologist and the student of migration, while it appeals to us all strongly as an outpost towards the boreal regions. We are, therefore, always glad to read Mr. Eagle Clarke's annual reports, of which the fifth is in the April number of this magazine. He promises us a separate and full account of the birds of the Isle shortly, and meanwhile recounts as new for 1909 the following six species:—Crossbill ('*Annals*,' 1909, p. 215; 1910, p. 54), White-spotted Bluethroat, Pink-footed, Bernacle, and Brent Geese, and Grey Phalarope. The Crossbills appear to be representatives of a slender-billed race from the far north of Europe and Siberia. With regard to the record of the breeding of the White Wagtail, we may draw attention to that of Mr. J. H. Dixon in his work on '*Gairloch in Ross-shire*.' The White-spotted Bluethroat has never before been obtained in Scotland, and only on three occasions elsewhere in Britain.

Other communications to the April number are those of Mr. H. B. Watt on Scottish Heronries, with additions to and corrections of his former paper (1908, p. 218), and of Mr. H. S. Gladstone on a specimen of the American Bittern shot at Loch Martnaham in Dumfriesshire in 1898, the newspaper report of which he finds in a scrap-book of the late Sir William Jardine, belonging to Mr. Harvie-Brown, who called his attention to the entry. Finally, Mr. W. Evans, in reference to his note ('*Annals*,' 1899, p. 14) on the supposed eggs of the Wood-Sandpiper taken near Elgin by Mr. Thurnall in 1853, quotes from letters of Sir Edward Newton to Professor Alfred Newton, which clearly shew that the finder was mistaken in his identification of the eggs. In the '*Zoological Notes*' we should mention those on Crossbills from the north-east coast and on the Great Spotted Woodpecker by Mr. Harvie-Brown;

on a visitation of Greenland Falcons by the same and Mr. Eagle Clarke; and on the rare hybrid between the Black-cock and Capercaillie, with some remarks on the latter species in East Lothian.

In the July part we have a skilfully drawn-up Report on Scottish Ornithology for 1909 by those energetic lady-workers Misses Baxter and Rintoul, who take the place this year of Mr. Laidlaw. It will be remembered that they themselves added a new species to the British list in 1909 (*Saxicola pleschanka* from, the Isle of May), but they call our attention here to many other rare birds, too numerous to mention, including *Phylloscopus superciliosus* on the Scottish mainland, *Oriolus galbula*, *Zonotrichia albicollis* (Flannan Islands), *Falco candicans*, *Tadorna casarca*, and numerous species from Fair Isle and the Isle of May. A feature in the Report is the division into sections which deal with different subjects, such as extension of breeding-range, nesting of the species, migration, and so forth; while the occurrences in winter are a welcome addition to the usual spring and autumn records. Among the latter the great invasion of the Crossbill into Britain is duly chronicled and discussed.

The Pentland Skerries have furnished a specimen of the Rock-Thrush, which was sent to the Royal Scottish Museum; this, Mr. Eagle Clarke says, is only the second time that *Monticola saxatilis* has occurred in Britain, if we except doubtful reports. In the 'Zoological Notes' for July we find mention of a Chough from Peeblesshire, and an American Yellow-billed Cuckoo from Colonsay, besides further occurrences of the Crossbill.

74. 'The Auk.'

[The Auk. A Quarterly Journal of Ornithology. January, April, July, 1910.]

In the January number Dr. C. W. Townsend and Mr. A. C. Bent publish some notes on the Birds of Labrador, supplementary to the work on that country by Townsend and Allen in the 33rd volume of the 'Proceedings of the Boston Society,'

and to further notes in 'The Auk,' vol. xxvi. An account is given of the condition of the avifauna of the southern coast in the spring of 1909, and three species are added to the Labrador list (3 plates). Mr. Ruthven Deane, in continuation of his interesting articles on Audubon, furnishes us with letters from that great ornithologist and Dr. Ingall on the Labrador trip of 1833, when much good work was done, but no new species were discovered; Mr. J. H. Sage publishes his Report on the twenty-seventh "stated meeting" of the A. O. U.; and Mr. L. B. Bishop describes two new subspecies (*Numenius americanus parvus* from Western Canada, and *Molothrus ater dwighti*, Saskatchewan to N. Dakota).

In the April number we have three articles in memory of J. C. Merrill, C. Aldrich, and R. B. Sharpe, with portraits, by Mr. W. Brewster, Mr. R. Deane, and Dr. J. A. Allen respectively. Mr. L. J. Cole also records the progress made in the "tagging" of wild birds.

The July number contains a paper of considerable length on bird-photographing in the Carolinas, by Messrs. B. S. Bowdish and P. B. Philipp, with three plates of Terns, the Black Skimmer, the Florida Cormorant, and the Florida Gallinule.

Of papers more especially distributional contained in the three numbers, Mr. J. E. Hess discusses the species found within a ten-mile radius, near Philo, in Illinois; Mr. J. C. Wood the winter birds of 1908-9 in Wayne Co., Michigan; Mr. G. Eifrig the same at Ottawa—with some interesting observations on the habits; Messrs. A. H. Wright and A. A. Allen write on the increase of "Austral Birds" at Ithaca; Mr. W. F. Henninger on his experiences in Ohio (plate); Messrs. N. A. Wood and A. D. Tinker on the rarer species of Washtenaw Co., Michigan; Mr. E. R. Warren on the birds of Chaffee Co., Colorado; Mr. G. C. Embury on those of Ashland, Virginia; Mr. J. F. Ferry on those of Saskatchewan (3 pls.); Mr. R. W. Chaney on those of Hamlin Lake, Michigan; Mr. S. S. Visher on those of Pima County, Arizona; and Mr. A. H. Howell on those of the summer in Kentucky and Tennessee.

In the January number Mrs. F. M. Bailey records her experiences of the breeding of *Icterus nelsoni*, the Palm-leaf Oriole, and gives three pretty figures of the nest; and in April Dr. Townsend writes on the courtships of the Golden-Eye and Eider Ducks, while Mr. R. F. Miller notes an increase of the Florida Gallinule near Philadelphia. In July Mr. H. W. Henshaw furnishes an article, which will interest students of the subject, on the "Migration of the Pacific Plover (*Charadrius dominicus fulvus*) to and from the Hawaiian Islands," which is followed by a second on the "Migration of the Canada Goose in Eastern Massachusetts," by Mr. J. C. Phillips. Mrs. C. J. Stanwood also writes on the Black-throated Green Warbler and its nesting-habits (2 pls.); Mr. W. F. Henninger on Henslow's Sparrow in Ohio (pl.); and Mr. W. Brewster answers Dr. Dwight on the "Resurrection of the Red-legged Black Duck."

Mr. R. Ridgway's remarks "Concerning Three erroneous Georgia Records" (p. 88) should also be noted by students of American ornithology in particular.

75. 'The Avicultural Magazine.'

[Avicultural Magazine. Third Series. Vol. i. Nos. 5-9 (March-July 1910).]

In these numbers we have an illustrated account of the Crystal Palace Bird Show of the year by Messrs. A. Silver (British Birds), D. Seth-Smith (Parrots), and F. Finn (other foreign birds); Mr. Seth-Smith also continues the story of his travels in Australia (Sydney and Brisbane), and Mr. Finn writes on *Colius erythromelon* and on two species of *Cæreba* (*C. cærulea* and *C. cyanea*) (col. pls.), while he gives further instalments of his "Stray Notes on Indian Birds." Col. Momber sketches the migration of British Birds through Italy, and gives us a tabular list with the addition of occasional remarks. An interesting paper by Dr. Butler discusses the duration of the life of captive birds, and this has induced Mr. Bonhote to write at length on the same subject, and to supply notes on the breeding and management of various species (2 pls.). Mr. H. D. Astley and Mr. Finn furnish

papers on some species rarely imported to Britain; Dr. Butler recounts the foundation and progress of the Avicultural Society; Mr. T. H. Newman continues his notes on a visit to North-western Africa (Tunis and Algeria), and Mr. H. Goodechild those on his ornithological rambles. In all of these articles may be found much that is of interest to specialists in different lines; but certainly the most important to ornithologists generally is Mr. Walter Goodfellow's account of the Birds-of-Paradise, which is to be followed by further instalments. He intends to write on no less than twenty species, and begins with *Paradisaea apoda*, of which he gives very full and very interesting particulars as regards life-history in the most general sense.

Reports of species breeding in captivity are furnished by Mr. Teschemaker (*Sylvia atricapilla*, *Otocompsa jocosa*, and *Passer diffusus*); by Major B. R. Horsbrugh (*Cereopsis*, *Dendrocycna fulva*, *D. autumnalis*, and *Chen rossi* at Stephen's Green, Dublin); by Mr. T. H. Newman (*Columba albigularis*); and by Mr. P. W. Thorniley (*Turdus fusca*). Finally, Mr. W. H. St. Quintin writes on the European Rock-Thrushes, Mr. Finn on *Phasianus principalis* (named in memory of the late King Edward, pl.), and Dr. Hopkinson on *Ptilopachys fuscus*; while minor notes will be found in all the numbers on a variety of subjects.

76. *Bangs on Birds from Costarica.*

[Notes on some rare or not well-known Costarican Birds. By Outram Bangs. Pr. Biol. Soc. Washington, xxii. p. 29.]

Mr. C. F. Underwood in 1907-8 collected birds in Costarica, and those of special interest are now mentioned by Mr. Bangs. *Trogon melanocephalus illatabilis* and *Aimophila rufescens hypæthrus* are described as new subspecies.

77. *Bangs on new or rare Birds from Western Colombia.*

[New or rare Birds from Western Colombia. By Outram Bangs. Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, xxiii. p. 71.]

Mr. Bangs describes some new or rare forms of birds

from examples in a collection made in Western Colombia by Mervyn G. Palmer, and received through Mr. Rosenberg.

The new species and subspecies are named *Odontophorus baliolus*, *Picumnus canus*, *Xiphorhynchus rosenbergi*, *Rhopoctites alogus*, *Mionectes olivaceus hederaceus*, *Pheugopedius spadix*, *P. mystacalis saltuensis*, and *Henicorhina leucosticta eucharis*.

78. *Bangs on two rare Hawaiian Birds.*

[Unrecorded Specimens of two rare Hawaiian Birds. By Outram Bangs. Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, xxiii. p. 57.]

The birds "discovered" in the recesses of the Museum of Comparative Zoology are *Acrulocercus apicalis* and *Ciridops anna*, both now (probably) extinct, and very rare in Collections.

79. *Beebe's 'Search for a Wilderness.'*

[Our Search for a Wilderness. By Mary Blair Beebe and C. William Beebe. New York: Henry Holt & Company, 1910. \$2.75. With 398 illustrations from photographs and 398 pp., 8vo.]

Many of our readers will remember a charming account of a winter spent among the birds of Mexico by Mr. and Mrs. Beebe some years ago (see 'Ibis,' 1896, p. 580). They have now gone further afield, and during the last two winters have visited Venezuela and British Guiana.

Mr. Beebe is one of the new school of naturalists, who believe in the camera and in the patient watching of birds. At the same time he is no fanatic in this respect, and has no sentimental objections to shooting and preserving specimens if required for the purpose of identification. He is also fully competent (with the help of his assistant, Mr. Lee S. Crandall) to enrich the Zoological Park of New York, where he is Curator of Onithology, with many additions to their living collection.

Of his recent excursions to Venezuela and some of the results arrived at, Mr. Beebe has already given us an account in two papers lately published in the new Journal 'Zoologica' (see above, pp. 549, 550). A more popular

history of their adventures in Venezuela, prepared by Mr. and Mrs. Beebe, is contained in the present volume, which also gives us a full history of the journey to British Guiana last year. In British Guiana three expeditions were made from Georgetown into the interior—two of these were to gold-mines situated “in the midst of the wilderness,” while on the third the savanna district further south was visited.

We cannot go into particulars respecting the observations made during these well-planned excursions. Suffice it to say that no opportunity was lost, by either Mr. or Mrs. Beebe, of acquiring information respecting the animal life of the country traversed. The Birds were, of course, specially attended to, and we may call particular attention to the notes on the Trumpeters, the Curassows, and, above all, the Hoatzins. In fact, every page of the work is replete with information, well illustrated by pictures taken from real life in the jungle. We can thoroughly recommend the ‘Search for a Wilderness’ to every lover of Natural History.

But poor Mrs. Beebe met with a sad adventure, which brought the excursion to Guiana to a rapid conclusion. A loose string brought the hammock on which she was sitting, to the ground, and caused her a broken wrist. It was necessary to leave for Georgetown instantly for skilled assistance. But “Miladi” recovered quickly from her accident, and no traces of the fracture remain. She and her husband (whom one of us had the pleasure of meeting when they passed through London this summer) are now, we believe, in the jungles of India searching for living Pheasants for the New York Zoological Park.

80. *Bentham on a new Indian Sun-bird.*

[A new Species of Sun-bird (*Æthopyga*) obtained near Darjiling, British Sikhim. By T. Bentham, Indian Museum. Rec. Ind. Mus. vol. ii. p. 167 (1908).]

The new species is based on a specimen obtained by the author in the forest of Ghoom, near Darjiling, and is named *Æthopyga griseiceps*. It is most nearly allied to *Æthopyga nipalensis*, but is distinguished by its grey head.

81. *Clark on the Birds of Korea.*

[Report on a Collection of Birds made by Pierre Louis Jouy in Korea. By Austin H. Clark. Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. vol. xxxviii. pp. 147-176 (1910).]

In 1907 (see 'Ibis,' 1907, p. 641) Mr. Clark described the (supposed) new species of birds represented in a large collection made by the late Pierre Louis Jouy during a residence of over three years in Korea. Mr. Clark now gives us a complete list of the whole collection, which belongs, we suppose, to the U.S. National Museum. It contains 554 specimens, taken mainly at Fusan, Chemulpo, and Seoul, though some are from the island of Tsushima in the Korean Straits. Other interesting specimens obtained by Dr. W. Lord Smith of Boston, in 1892-3, in South-western Korea are likewise noticed.

The whole list contains the names of about 165 species, which are arranged after the fashion and nomenclature of the American 'Check-list.' It is of considerable interest, as the Ornis of Korea was previously little known to us, although many stray specimens had been obtained there.

We see no mention in it of the Branicki's Sea-Eagle (*Haliaëtus branickii*), allied to but quite different from *H. pelagicus*, and described by Taczanowski in 1888*, from a specimen obtained in Korea by Kalinowski. The example of this magnificent bird, formerly living in the Zoological Society's Gardens †, is now, we believe, in the Norwich Museum.

82. *Coward's 'Fauna of Cheshire.'*

[The Vertebrate Fauna of Cheshire and Liverpool Bay. Edited by T. A. Coward. Witherby and Co., London, 1910. Vol. I., pp. i-xxxii, 1-472; Vol. II., pp. i-xl, 1-204.]

Ornithologists though we are, we are interested in both volumes of this important work on the Fauna of Cheshire;

* P. Z. S. 1888, p. 451.

† See P. Z. S. 1893, p. 613; List of Animals, 1896, p. 387.

for the Birds occupy much of the first volume, and a section on the Wild-fowl of the Dee is included in the second. The authors have rightly extended the political boundary of the county so as to take in Liverpool Bay—chiefly for the sake of the “marine fish-fauna”—and “many square miles of marshes” in Flintshire, which naturally belong to the country watered by the well-known Cheshire river. A commencement is made with a description of the physical features of the district, the changes that have taken place inland and on the shores, and the gradual increase of the towns and their population; and with this are incorporated many interesting notices of the species of birds that of old inhabited the Mosses characteristic of the area, the marshes and lakes now drained or still existing, and the brine “flashes” still in process of formation.

Next follows an account of the scanty literature of the past, and a section on the preservation of Game, whence we pass on to the Mammals. But we are only concerned here with the portion of the work referring to Birds, to which is prefixed a separate or special Introduction. In this we learn that the following species have been added to the county list since Messrs. Coward and Oldham published their ‘Birds of Cheshire’ in the year 1900:—the Cirl Bunting, the Mealy Redpoll, the Woodchat-Shrike, the Shore-Lark, the Shag, the American Blue-winged Teal, the Kentish Plover, Schlegel’s Petrel, and Baillon’s Crake.

An excellent account is given of the 231 species of Birds which have been satisfactorily proved to have occurred in Cheshire during the present or the last century, though the habits are discussed at unusual length for a local fauna, and this part of the book might perhaps have been shortened with advantage. About 112 of these birds breed or have bred recently within the chosen boundaries, even when we omit such as the Marsh- and Hen-Harriers, the Bittern, the Oystercatcher, and the Terns, with regard to which no definite records have been preserved. We may call special attention in this connexion to the example of *Querquedula discors*, shot on the Dee estuary some fifty years ago, and to the

case of a drake Pintail which paired with a Mallard Duck, and brought off a brood at Toft, near Knutsford.

On the whole, Cheshire has a poor avifauna, owing to its want of a rocky coast-line and its position, which places it apart from the best-known lines of migration; but the county is especially interesting as being one in which the breeding-ranges of several northern and southern species meet.

Additional value is given to the work by a sketch of the Acts for the Protection of Birds and Eggs, and of the specially protected areas, by a section on Migration, and by a very full Bibliography referring to the whole subject. A good map of Cheshire is added.

The Classification and Nomenclature used are mainly those of Howard Saunders, though Hartert is followed where he has distinguished British races from those of the Continent; we fail, however, to see why "Linné" is used, instead of "Linnæus" or one of the usual abbreviations, in cases where his specific names are adopted.

The portions of the book on Mammals and Birds are the work of Messrs. T. A. Coward and C. Oldham, as are those on the Reptiles, Amphibians, &c., while that on the Fishes is by Mr. J. Johnstone, and Mr. J. A. Dockray contributes the article on the Dee as a resort of Wild-fowl. The plates are excellent and are chiefly from photographs by Mr. T. Baddeley.

83. *Dresser on Palearctic Birds' Eggs.*

[Eggs of the Birds of Europe, including all the Species inhabiting the Western Palearctic Area. By H. E. Dresser. Parts XXI, XXII. February 1910.]

Mr. Dresser's great work on Oology is now nearing completion, one more part only remaining to be issued. In the present part we have the continuation of the Scolopaciæ, the Terns, the Gulls (including the Skuas), and some of the Petrels; and we wish once more to draw particular attention to the great mass of new information on the range of many species derived from Mr. Buturlin, and on his experiences

on the Kolymá River in Siberia. The discovery by him of the eggs of *Rhodostethia rosea* is narrated—though not for the first time—in this part of Mr. Dresser's book, and the true facts are given concerning *Numenius tenuirostris* and its breeding-range; while an error of Middendorff's with regard to *Tringites rufescens* is corrected.

There is much of interest in the British Birds included in this instalment, and we notice that Mr. Dresser has safeguarded himself in the matter of the supposed Wood-Sandpiper's eggs from Elgin, which were certainly wrongly identified (*supra*, p. 730). In the case of the Roseate Tern, however, he is too sceptical, as the eggs were certainly taken on one occasion at least in Norfolk (coll. A. Newton), when the parents were carefully identified. Again he might have extended the breeding-range of the Sandwich Tern on the Scottish mainland to Sutherland, whence the late T. E. Buckley procured a single egg. Perhaps he considers such an exceptional case better omitted. We cannot complain, on the other hand, of his statement that the Common Gull does not nest to the south of the Border-land, though we should have wished him to have stated that the record from St. Abb's Head by Hepburn was undoubtedly erroneous, and that the bird is not found on the East Coast of Scotland in general. But he is decidedly mistaken in doubting whether the Arctic Skua breeds in Caithness—there is, or was a few years ago, at least one fair-sized colony there.

The plates of this book are excellent, and, though dark eggs are difficult to photograph successfully, the results are most satisfactory.

84. *Eaton on the Birds of New York.*

[New York State Museum. Memoir 12. Birds of New York. By Elou Howard Eaton. Part I. 1 vol., 4to. Albany, 1910.]

This is the first volume of a new history of the birds of the State of New York, prepared by Mr. E. Howard Eaton, who, we are assured, is an experienced student of the subject. It is accompanied by 42 coloured plates, which, together with 500 pages of letterpress, make a somewhat ponderous

volume. The plates have been drawn by Mr. L. A. Fuertes, an accomplished artist well known in America, and are "full of life," but in some instances, we think, a little over-coloured.

The last history of the birds of the State of New York was that of De Kay, published more than sixty years ago, and it was therefore quite time that a new treatise on the subject should be undertaken, especially as during this long interval upwards of 100 species have been added to the List of those met with in the State.

The nomenclature and arrangement followed in the present work are those of the well-known American 'Checklist': so that, beginning with the lowest forms, we are carried on as far as the Pigeons, leaving the mighty army of Passeres for the second volume.

85. 'The Emu.'

[The Emu. A Quarterly Magazine to popularize the Study and Protection of Native Birds. Vol. ix. pts. 2-4, Oct. 1909-April 1910.]

The October number commences with two lists of Birds by Mr. G. M. Mathews: one from North-west Australia in continuation of a former instalment, the other from the Alexandra District, which is supplementary to that given in 'The Ibis' for 1907 (p. 387). They contain short notes from the collectors Rogers and Stalker on the colours of the soft parts and the birds' food. Mr. C. G. Gibson follows with an article on the species found between Kalgoorlie and the South Australian Border; Mr. R. Hall with notes on Murray River Ducks and on variation in *Trichoglossus novaehollandiæ*; Mr. A. F. Crossman on birds seen at Cummin Station, W.A.; and Mr. Mathews on additions to his 'Handlist to the Birds of Australasia.' We do not find much of very general interest in these papers, though they will doubtless prove useful to workers in the special districts; but Miss Fletcher's 'Bird Notes from Cleveland, Tasmania' (pt. ii.), deal in a graphic manner with the habits of some of the rarer species of that country, while Mr. D. Le Souëf

gives a full account of the splendid collection of Australian Birds' eggs formed by Mr. H. L. White. To our mind the plates of Regent-Birds' and Ospreys' eggs look a little as if Mr. White and his collectors were overdoing the affair, but we may safely leave our Australian cousins to see that no harm is done to the rarer species. Finally, Mr. S. W. Jackson describes the nest and eggs of *Pachycephala lanioides*.

In January we find the Minutes of the Ninth Annual Session of the Australian Union, held at Adelaide under the presidency of Mr. D. Le Souëf, whose portrait accompanies the letterpress. Excursions were made to the Mount Lofty ranges, the Eyre peninsula, and elsewhere with interesting results; a committee was appointed to collect and report upon local names of birds; a motion was passed that a protected area ought to be provided on Kangaroo Island, and various other business was transacted. The President's address was on "Bird Sanctuaries," and Mr. Mattingley read a paper on the habits of the Cuckoos.

Articles by Mr. R. Hall concerned with the Eyre peninsula (2 pls.), by Mr. C. Barrett on *Neophema petrophila* (pl.), by Mr. E. M. Cornwall on *Ardea sumatrana* (pl.), by Mr. F. M. Littler on a trip to Ninth Island, Bass Strait, by Mr. A. F. Crossman on the Birds of Broome, N.W.A., by Mr. H. S. Dove on the life-history of the Tasmanian Blue Wren, by Mr. W. J. Armstrong on Albatross Island, and by Mr. H. W. Wilson on the first "Bird Day" in the Commonwealth, help to fill up this part, and afford much useful information chiefly of a local character. Mr. S. W. Jackson describes as new the eggs of *Acanthiza tenuirostris* and *Amytornis gigantura*.

More than half the April part is occupied by an important paper on the birds of the East Murchison district by Mr. F. L. Whitlock, with no less than ten plates. He collected for Mr. H. L. White at Lake Way, Lake Violet, Milly Pool, and other localities, and was wonderfully successful, finding nests of *Peltohyas australis* (pl.), *Cinclosoma marginatum* (pl.), *Acanthiza robustirostris*, the new *A. whitlocki* (pl.), *A. uropygialis* (pl.), *A. tenuirostris*, *Stipiturus ruficeps*, *Amytornis gigantura* (pl.), *A. striatus* (pl.), *Lacustræca whitei* (col. pl.),

and *Certhionyx variegatus* (pl.), most of them with eggs. He also discovered the bower, nest, and eggs of *Chlamydodera guttata* (pls.). Of these and their surroundings a most interesting account is given, while the whole paper abounds with information on the ways, and especially the nesting-habits, of the rarer species.

The April part is continued by articles on the stomach-contents, parasitic worms, and protozoa, of 57 native birds by Dr. J. B. Cleland; on the Mallee country by Mr. F. E. Howe; on *Manorhina melanophrys* by Mr. F. E. Wilson; on the Satin Bower-Bird by Mr. C. F. Cole; on the birds of Parry's Creek, N.W.A., by Mr. Mathews; and on those of Drouin, Gippsland, by Mr. I. Batey.

Of new species we have in the three parts descriptions of *Eopsaltria jacksoni* (p. 70) with a coloured plate of bird, nest, and young, from the Herberton Range (cf. 'Emu,' viii. p. 284, ix. p. 246), and of *Acanthiza flaviventris* from Lake Frome, S.A. (p. 137); while attention is drawn (p. 173) to others recently described in the 'Victorian Naturalist,' and one is withdrawn (p. 163).

86. *Festa on Birds from Darien and Ecuador.*

[Nel Dairein e nell' Ecuador. Diario di viaggio di un Naturalista. Dr. E. Festa. 1 vol. 397 pp.]

The author has kindly sent us a copy of this work, which has no bookseller's name attached to it, and appears to have been privately printed. Dr. E. Festa is a well-known and energetic traveller and naturalist, who has sent a large series of zoological specimens to the Museum of Turin, where they have been studied and described by Count Salvadori. In Darien Dr. Festa obtained 202 specimens belonging to 122 species, among which was a new Tanager (*Rhamphocelus festaæ*), named by Salvadori after its discoverer*. But a much more extensive collection was made during his longer sojourn in Ecuador, where 2892 specimens of birds

* Bol. Mus. Torino, vol. xii. p. 219 (1896).

were obtained. These were referred to 613 species, of which 17 were new to science.

In the present work we find a popular account of Dr. Festa's travels and adventures, well illustrated by numerous figures in the text, and by two maps which shew the traveller's exact routes. There are occasional, but not many, allusions to bird-life in the narrative, and we could wish that this part of the subject had obtained greater attention.

87. *Godman's 'Monograph of the Petrels'**.

[A Monograph of the Petrels (Order Tubinares). By F. DuCane Godman, D.C.L., F.R.S., President of the British Ornithologists' Union, &c. With hand-coloured Plates by J. G. Keulemans. Part V. Witherby & Co., May 1910.]

We have now received the fifth part of this excellent work, which completes the Monograph. We have already given an account of its origin and plan of its execution in our previous notices, and need not repeat what has been already plainly stated. To say that the subject is now exhausted would not be true. But the Author has gathered together all that is yet known about the Tubinares, and formed a solid basis for future naturalists to build upon. Moreover, he has illustrated his subject by an unequalled series of coloured plates, which will be of the greatest value to those who are studying the natural history of this difficult group.

Mr. Godman adds to the present part of his work a valuable disquisition on the systematic position of the Petrels, drawn up by Mr. Pycraft, which merits careful study. Their osteological characters, Mr. Pycraft says, support the contention that, although their Ciconiiform affinities are evident, the Petrels are also allied to the Divers and Penguins, but have little to do with the Gulls, as some authorities have maintained.

According to the present work, the Tubinares, as at present known, are divisible into four families: Procellariidæ,

* For notice of Part IV., see 'Ibis,' 1909, p. 546.

Puffinidæ, Pelecanoididæ, and Diomedeidæ. One hundred and twenty-two species, belonging to twenty-five genera, are recognised.

There are altogether 103 coloured plates, so that all except a few of the more obscure species are figured. The complete work, bound, can now be obtained for fifteen guineas.

88. *Grinnell on Alaskan Birds.*

[Birds of the 1908 Alexander Alaska Expedition, with a Note on the Avifaunal Relationships of the Prince William Sound District. By Joseph Grinnell. Univ. of California, Publ. in Zool., Vol. v. No. 12. Berkeley, Cal., 1910.]

The territory selected for exploration by Miss Alexander's third expedition to Alaska (1908) was the Prince-William-Sound Region, which lies at the head of the Gulf of Alaska. Its fauna was previously little known. The ornithological material collected during the expedition, besides the naturalists' field note-books, comprised 500 bird-skins and ten sets of eggs, which have been presented by Miss Alexander to the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology of the University of California.

The birds observed and obtained during the expedition are referred to 89 species, concerning which there are many interesting field-notes. *Canachites canadensis atratus* and *Lagopus rupestris kelloggæ* are described as two new subspecies of Grouse, *Ceryle alcyon caurina* as a new subspecies of Kingfisher, *Passerella iliaca sinuosa* as a new Finch, and *Penthestes rufescens vivax* as a new Titmouse.

As an appendix to the memoir we have a discussion on the origin of the Avifauna of the district examined, with the result that it appears to belong to two different life-zones—the "Hudsonian" and the "Alpine-Arctic." The former is practically coincident with the timbered area, which is confined to a narrow tract bordering the sea-shore and extending up the valleys; while the "Alpine-Arctic" or treeless zone covers the tops of the mountains and the interior land-mass.

89. *Hartert on Palearctic Birds.*

[Die Vögel der paläarktischen Fauna. Systematische Uebersicht der in Europa, Nord-Asien und der Mittelmeerregion vorkommenden Vögel. Von Dr. Ernst Hartert. Heft vi. (Doppelheft). Seite 641-832. Mit 10 Abbildungen. Berlin, June 1910.]

The issue of the sixth part of Dr. Hartert's 'Review of the Birds of the Palearctic Region' completes the first volume of this important work, and affords us an opportunity of making a few remarks upon the new school of Trinomialism, of which Dr. Hartert is one of the principal and most active champions.

Some hundred and fifty years ago the great Linnæus invented the famous plan that all animals and plants should be designated by two names only—one that of the genus, and the other that of the species. This excellent scheme was at once adopted by naturalists, and has been followed by all writers, with very few exceptions, until recent years, when the discovery was made that many species, especially those spread over an extensive area, might be divided, by more or less stable characters, into local forms, or, as they are now usually called, "subspecies." In order to designate the "subspecies" shortly a third or "subspecific" name was attached to the generic and specific terms, and the "binomial" system of Linnæus was thus converted into a "trinomial" system. Moreover, if the practice of attaching the name of the authority for the specific term be retained (as is done by Dr. Hartert), all species which are divisible into subspecies will have four names instead of the two of the Linnean System.

In spite of this defect (as *we* consider it), Trinomialism has secured many adherents, especially in Germany and the United States, and the number of "subspecies" is increasing rapidly day by day. No careful student of animals can deny that subspecies really do exist in Nature, but the question is whether it is advisable to give them a special name. The late Dr. Sharpe was, as we all know, greatly opposed to this being done, and, in his 'Hand-list,' has

turned all the trinomial names into binomials. Dr. Hartert, on the other hand, is strongly in favour of trinomials, and employs them, as we are disposed to think, rather too freely. Of the 1240 forms comprised in the first volume of his 'Palæartic Birds,' by far the greater number have a third name. In fact, he often degrades to the rank of "subspecies" many easily distinguishable forms which other writers have treated as full species.

Another point on which we cannot at all agree with Dr. Hartert is the duplication of the specific name in the case of such subspecies as are the typical forms of the species. It would be much simpler and more elegant, we think, to designate the typical form by the addition of the word "typicus" to the generic and specific names. Thus we should write "*Corvus corax typicus*," not "*Corvus corax corax*." When, as is the case with those who use "toutonyms" (*i. e.*, the same name for the genus and species), the one name is repeated three times over (e. g., *Pica pica pica*, *Coccothraustes coccothraustes coccothraustes*), the effect is almost ludicrous!

A third point in nomenclature upon which we cannot follow Dr. Hartert is his alteration of many of our most familiar scientific names on what we should be inclined to consider insufficient evidence. For example, the Grey Flycatcher is called *Muscicapa striata* instead of *Muscicapa grisola*, the genus "*Accentor*" is changed to "*Prunella*," and *Turdus musicus* is dethroned in favour of *Turdus philomelus*! It would be easy to shew in these and other similar cases that such changes might have been avoided by a little judicious management. And consider the number of text-books and books of reference that have employed these rejected terms for the last hundred years, and are now required to change them on grounds that are appreciable only to the few students of zoological nomenclature.

The subspecies provided with new names in the sixth part of vol. i. of this work are:—

Page xxxiii.	<i>Parus major terræ-sanctæ</i> (Palestine).
”	xliv. <i>Ianthocincla ellioti honoripeta</i> (Tibet).
”	711. <i>Oreicola ferrea harinytoni</i> (China).
”	749. <i>Luscinia pectoralis confusa</i> (Sikim).
”	753. <i>Erithacus rubecula witherbyi</i> (Algeria).
”	766. <i>Prunella collaris ripponi</i> (Yunnan).
”	770. <i>Prunella fulvescens dresseri</i> (Turkestan).
”	776. <i>Troglodytes troglodytes taivanus</i> (Formosa).
”	780. <i>T. t. kabytorum</i> (Algeria).
”	783. <i>T. t. szetschuanus</i> (Setchuan).
”	784. <i>T. t. ogavæ</i> (Japan).
”	802. <i>Chelidon rustica transitiva</i> (Palestine).
”	809. <i>Hirundo urbica meridionalis</i> (Algeria).
”	810. <i>H. urbica nigrimentalis</i> (China).

Notwithstanding the objections we have urged to some of Dr. Hartert's practices in nomenclature, there can be no doubt that the 'Birds of the Palæarctic Fauna' is a most important work, and should be carefully referred to by all students of the European Ornis. It contains a mass of valuable information that is not to be found in any other publication, and brings it together in an accessible form.

90. 'The Irish Naturalist.'

[The Irish Naturalist. A Monthly Journal of General Irish Natural History. October 1909 to August 1910.]

A few ornithological articles are included in these numbers. In October 1909 Mr. N. H. Foster continues his observations on the weights of birds' eggs in a fresh condition; in November Major Barrett-Hamilton has a note on a supposed eyry of the Goshawk in Ireland; while in January and February 1910 Mr. D. C. Campbell writes an account of the birds of Inch and Upper Lough Swilly, which contains a considerable amount of interesting matter. The introduction of a few more articles on Birds in this Magazine would be of advantage to Irish Ornithology, and increase our knowledge of local distribution.

91. Jackson on the East-African Francolins.

[East Africa and Uganda Francolins. By F. J. Jackson. Journ. E. Afr. N. H. Soc. i. p. 7 (1910).]

With great pleasure we have received a copy of the first part of the 'Journal of the East Africa and Uganda Natural

History Society,' and we express our hope that it may be the precursor of a long series of equally interesting numbers. We see that Mr. F. J. Jackson is the President of the Society and the Chairman of the Executive Committee, and we find that, as might have been expected, he contributes an ornithological article to the new Journal.

The subject Mr. Jackson has selected is the Francolins of East Africa, of which he recognises sixteen species, twelve belonging to typical *Francolinus*, and four to the bare-throated genus *Pternistes*. All known particulars are given respecting these birds and their habits and distribution, but we are told that very little has been recorded as regards their breeding-season, and that more information on this point is much required. The Francolins and Guinea-fowls are the principal Game-birds of East Africa, and it is highly desirable that regulations should be made for their protection, as they are now shot indiscriminately at all times in the year.

A coloured figure of *Francolinus hubbardi*, drawn by Major Jones, illustrates this memoir.

92. *Jouy on two Paradise-Flycatchers.*

[The Paradise-Flycatchers of Japan and Korea. By Pierre Louis Jouy. Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xxvii. p. 651.]

Dr. Stejneger publishes a paper, written by the late M. Jouy, on the Paradise-Flycatchers of Japan and Korea, which shews that the two forms, although closely allied, are different. For the former it is proposed to use the name *Terpsiphone atrocaudata* (Eyton), and for the latter the new name *Terpsiphone owstoni*. *T. atrocaudata* is apparently restricted in Japan to the southern islands, but is also met with in South-eastern Korea, while *T. owstoni* inhabits Hondo Island, Japan, and Amoy and Hong-Kong in China.

93. *Kirkman on British Birds.*

[The British Bird Book. An Account of all the Birds, Nests, and Eggs found in the British Isles. Edited by F. B. Kirkman. Illustrated by two hundred coloured drawings and numerous photographs. Vol. i. T. C. & E. C. Jack: London and Edinburgh, 1910.]

We have here a work by a new author, who intends, in

twelve sections, to provide an account of all the subjects mentioned in the title. He complains that since 1885 no important comprehensive book has been published in Britain on its Birds; while he seems to prefer the "new Naumann" to our recognised authorities, and to take it, roughly speaking, as a model. We hope that he will succeed in his somewhat ambitious project of bringing together information from every source in a comparatively small compass, and there can be no doubt that of late years much fresh light has been thrown on such subjects as Courtship and Migration. As Mr. Kirkman states that his work is intended in the main to be of a popular description, and devoted specially to a consideration of the birds' habits, it may well be useful to those for whom he writes, and we see that he has secured a goodly number of contributors, many of whose names are well known in various branches of Ornithology.

Each chapter is to deal with a Family, and coloured plates are to be given of nearly all the birds and eggs. These are not particularly successful, but we are pleased with some of the photographs of the nests.

34. Littler on the Birds of Tasmania.

[A Handbook of the Birds of Tasmania and its Dependencies. By Frank Mervyn Littler, F.E.S. Launceston, Tasmania, 1910. 1 vol. 8vo. 242 pp. Price 4s.]

A book on the Birds of the whole continent of Australia must necessarily be a bulky work, and could hardly be made conveniently portable; but the much smaller avifauna of Tasmania renders such an undertaking, as regards that country, a comparatively easy matter. We are, therefore, much pleased that Mr. Littler should have taken up the task, and are sure that his 'Handbook' will be much appreciated by his fellow-countrymen, who were previously obliged to go to Australian authorities to find descriptions of their native birds.

Mr. Littler reckons the total number of absolutely authenticated species, including accidentals, casuals, and migrants, of all Orders for Tasmania at slightly over 200.

This is not a large number, but, as he observes, Tasmania is not rich in bird-life, either as regards species or as regards individuals. In Tasmania all the birds are essentially Australian in character, but about 20 are sufficiently different from their Australian representatives to be considered as "peculiar or insular forms."

The 214 species included in the present work are arranged according to the order of the British Museum Catalogue. After the English and scientific names follow in each case descriptions of the plumage of both sexes, and in many instances of the immature dress. Then come accounts of the nests, eggs (if known), breeding-season, and habits. Great attention is given to the geographical distribution, which is shortly but distinctly stated in every case. There are 49 good half-tone illustrations taken from photographs, and mostly representative of nests and eggs.

In concluding this brief notice of a good piece of work we may fairly say that it is, in our opinion, a great credit to our Colony to have produced it. It has been written for Tasmanians by a Tasmanian, who, as shown by his pertinent "observations" on the manners and customs of the species, must be intimately acquainted with the bird-life of his country. There can be no doubt that Mr. Littler's volume, which is provided at a very moderate price, will attract many purchasers and will help much to promote the study of Tasmanian Birds.

95. *Lönnerberg on Discoveries of Subfossil Vertebrates.*

[Några fynd af subfossila vertebraten. By Einar Lönnerberg. Arkiv for Zoologi, Band vi. no. 3. Stockholm, 1909.]

This paper treats of the discovery in Sweden of a skull of a Reindeer with antlers, of three skeletons of Seals, and the skeleton of a Goose. This last skeleton was found in boulder-clay 1·20 m. above the sea at Sundsvall, and is interesting, as fossil remains of birds are by no means common, and the present find is only the second instance of the remains of a bird having been found in glacial clay in Sweden. Very full particulars and ten photographs of the bones are given,

together with measurements; while the conclusion arrived at by Professor Lönnberg is that the bones are those of *Anser neglectus* Sushkin, a form which differs but little from *Anser brachyrhynchus*.

96. *Muir and Wershaw on a new Pitta.*

[A new Bird from the Island of Ceram, Moluccas. By F. Muir and J. C. Wershaw. Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, xxiii. p. 65.]

Pitta piroensis, sp. nov., from Ceram, is nearly allied to *P. rubrinucha* of Bourou.

97. *Nehrkorn's Catalogue of Eggs.*

[Katalog der Eiersammlung, nebst Beschreibungen der ausser-europäischen Eier. Von Adolph Nehrkorn. Zweite Aufl. Mit 4 Eiertafeln in farbigem Steindruck. Berlin: Friedländer, 1900. 1 vol., 8vo, 449 pp.]

This is a second edition of the Catalogue of the great collection of birds' eggs formed by Herr Adolph Nehrkorn of Riddagshausen, near Brunswick, and now in the Museum of Berlin (or on its way there), the owner having liberally presented it to that Institution. It is without doubt one of the largest and most complete collections of these beautiful objects ever made, no trouble or expense having been spared in amassing it. The Catalogue follows Sharpe's 'Hand-list' of Birds in arrangement and nomenclature. It enumerates the names of 5440 species, the eggs of which are represented in the Collection. Short characters are given of the eggs of non-European species, and the *patria* is stated, but unfortunately no authorities for the identification are added.

Many rarities are represented in the series, such as examples of the eggs of eleven species of Galapagoan Finches, of six species of Paradise-birds, of *Calyptomena viridis*, *Nasiterna pusio*, and *Chunga burmeisteri*. There is an excellent alphabetical index, and four good coloured plates of thirty-seven special rarities.

98. *Nelson on a new Mexican Thrush.*

[A new Thrush from Mexico. By F. W. Nelson. Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, xxii. p. 49.]

A new subspecies of *Catharus*, from Tamaulipas, is named *C. mexicanus smithi*.

99. *North on a new Australian Honey-eater.*

[Description of a new Genus and Species of Honey-eater from Western Australia. By Alfred J. North. *Vict. Nat.* xxvi. p. 138 (1910).]

Under the name *Lacustroica whitei* Mr. North describes a new genus and species of Honey-eater from Western Australia. It is allied to *Entomophila*, but has a shorter bill, longer tarsus, and a different wing-formula. It is a small bird of dull colours.

100. *Penard on the Birds of Guiana.*

[De Vogels van Guyana (Suriname, Cayenne en Demerara), door Frederik Paul Penard en Arthur Philip Penard. Tweede Deel. Paramaribo, 1910. 8vo, 587 pp.]

This is the second volume of the work on the birds of the three Guianas (Dutch, French, and British), to which we called our readers' attention on a previous occasion ('Ibis,' 1909, p. 373). It is written in Dutch, the native language of the authors, although we should have thought that, as we have said before, English would have been better understood by those whom the work is likely to interest.

The present volume contains an account of the Picariæ and Passeres of the Guianas and concludes the work. The numerous species of the Guianan Avifauna included in it are mostly familiar, but there are a few names in the List that are unknown to us, such as *Hadrostomus atricapillus surinamensis*, *Attila surinamensis*, *Heteropelma surinamense*, *Todi-rostrum surinamense*, *Formicarius tamiesoni*, and *Lamprospiza charmesi*. Specimens of these supposed new species require careful examination before they can be admitted to a permanent place in the South-American Ornis.

101. *Ridgway on new Genera, Species, and Subspecies of Formicariidæ, Furnariidæ, and Dendrocolaptidæ.*

[New Genera, Species, and Subspecies of Formicariidæ, Furnariidæ, and Dendrocolaptidæ. By Robert Ridgway. *Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington*, xxii. p. 69.]

The 11 new genera of Formicariidæ are *Megastictus* (type *Myrmeciza margaritata*); *Myrmopagis* (type *Myrmothera*

axillaris) ; *Rhoporchilus* (type *Formicivora speciosa*) ; *Myrmorchilus* (type *Myiothera strigilata*) ; *Myrmoderus* (type *Myiothera loricata*) ; *Phænostictus* (type *Phlegopsis macleani*) ; *Hylophylax* (type *Conopophaga nævioides*) ; *Oropezus* (type *Grallaria rufula*) ; and *Hylopezus* (type *Grallaria perspicillata*).

The 7 new genera of Furnariidæ are *Premnornis* (type *Margarornis guttata*) ; *Driocistes* (type *Thripophaga sclateri*) ; *Phaceloscenus* (type *Anumbius striatocollis*) ; *Schœniophylax* (type *Sylvia phrygonophila*) ; *Acrorchilus* (type *Synallaxis erythrops*) ; *Hyloctistes* (type *Philydor virgatus*) ; and *Rhopoctites* (type *Philydor rufo-brunneus*).

The 11 new species and subspecies are named *Automolus cervinigularis hypophæus* (Costa Rica) ; *Acrorchilus erythrops griseigularis* (Colombia) ; *Synallaxis albescens hypoleuca* (Panama) ; *Dendrocolaptes validus costaricensis* (Costa Rica) ; *Xiphorhynchus flavigaster yucatanensis* (Yucatan) ; *X. punctigula insolitus* (Panama) ; *X. lacrymosus rostratus* (Colombia) ; *Picolaptes affinis neglectus* (Costa Rica) ; *Campylorhamphus chapmani* (S. America) ; *Myrmeciza zeledoni* (Costa Rica) ; and *M. berlepschi* (Ecuador).

Here we have, we suppose, diagnoses of the new genera, species, and subspecies introduced by Mr. Ridgway in the fifth volume of his great work on the Birds of North and Middle America, upon the preparation of which he is now engaged. The fourth volume was published in 1907 (see 'Ibis,' 1908, p. 190).

102. *Ridgway on new Forms of Cypselidæ and Trochilidæ.*

[Diagnoses of new Forms of Micropodidæ and Trochilidæ. By Robert Ridgway. Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, xxiii. p. 53.]

The new genus and the ten new species and subspecies of Swifts and Humming-birds are named as follows:—*Nesophlox*, gen. nov. (type *Trochilus evelynæ*) ; *Streptoprocne zonaris mexicana* (Mexico) ; *Chatura richmondi* (Costa Rica) ; *Cypseloides niger jamaicensis* (Jamaica) ; *C. n. costaricensis* (Costa Rica) ; *Phaethornis longirostris veræ-crucis* (Vera Cruz) ; *P. adolphii saturatus* (Guatemala to Panama) ;

Amizilis bangsi (Costa Rica); *Eupherusa eximia nelsoni* (Vera Cruz); *Anthracothonax prevosti gracilirostris* (Costa Rica); *Florisuga mellivora tobagensis* (Tobago).

These diagnoses, like those in the former paper, are, no doubt, in anticipation of the descriptions in the fifth volume of Mr. Ridgway's work, which we hope will soon be published.

103. *Riley on the Sharp-shinned Hawk.*

[On the Name and Synonymy of the Sharp-shinned Hawk. By J. H. Riley. Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, xxiii. p. 77.]

Mr. Riley points out that if, as he suspects, *Accipiter fringilloides* Vigors of Cuba is identical with *Sparvius striatus* Vieill. of San Domingo, the species ought to bear the latter specific name, as being ten years older. He has not yet been able to compare specimens from the two islands.

104. *Thienemann on the Bird-Observatory of Rossitten.*

[Die Vogelwarte Rossitten der Deutschen Ornithologischen Gesellschaft und das Kennzeichen der Vögel. Von Dr. J. Thienemann. Berlin, 1910. 8vo.]

This little pamphlet of 16 pages contains full information on the bird-observatory of Rossitten in the south-east corner of the Baltic, founded by the German Ornithological Society in 1901. It is well illustrated by maps and text-figures. The institution is specially devoted to the question of migration. Full particulars are given respecting the mode of labelling birds with aluminium rings, so that they may be recognisable when captured elsewhere, and information as to their direction of flight thus be obtained. As is well known, Storks labelled at Rossitten have been captured in many places in South Africa.

105. *Waite on the Birds of the Subantarctic Islands of New Zealand.*

[Reports edited by Charles Chilton, M.A., D.Sc., F.L.S. Pp. 351-584: Aves. By Edgar R. Waite, Curator, Canterbury Museum, Christchurch, New Zealand.]

The "Subantarctic Islands" belonging to New Zealand

consist of six widely separated groups, the most northerly being "The Snares," about 65 miles south of Stewart Island. Next to The Snares come the Auckland Islands, with two larger islands (Auckland Island and Adam's Island) and several smaller. Beyond them, about 140 miles to the south-east, lies Campbell Island, and 400 miles E.N.E. from the latter are the Antipodes Islands, containing one larger island and seven smaller. The fifth group, the "Bounty Islands," lie about ninety miles north of the "Antipodes." The five groups above mentioned all stand upon the comparatively shallow oceanic plateau which surrounds New Zealand; but the sixth and last, Macquarie Island, with its satellites, is outside this plateau, and about 570 miles S.W. of Stewart Island.

During the expedition to the Subantarctic Islands, of which this volume gives us an account, it appears to have been one of the rules that "neither birds nor their eggs were to be taken." The report on this part of the subject is, therefore, necessarily rather meagre, being confined to an enumeration of the species already recorded from the islands, together with notes on some of them which attracted the author's special attention.

The species mentioned are some 45 in number, mostly Petrels and other sea-birds, there being only 12 Passeres in the List. There are some useful figures introduced in the text, and, amongst others, illustrations of the nests and young of the two large Albatrosses, *Diomedea exulans* and *D. regia*. The former was found breeding on the Auckland Islands, including the western end of Adam's Island, the eastern end of that island being occupied by *D. regia*.

A sharp look-out was kept along the shores of the Auckland Islands for the scarce Southern Merganser (*Mergus australis*), but it was not met with.

106. *The 'Zoological Record' of 1908.*

[*Zoological Record*. Vol. xlv. 1908. Aves, by R. Bowdler Sharpe, LL.D. London: Harrison and Sons. Price 6s. December, 1909.]

The 'Zoological Record' of 1908, being the forty-fifth

volume of this most useful work, which also, according to the present arrangement, forms part of the 'International Catalogue of Scientific Literature,' was issued in December 1909. As in the preceding years, the section "Aves," in which we are specially interested, was compiled by the late Dr. Bowdler Sharpe (with, we believe, the able assistance of Mr. Charles Chubb), and was one of the last pieces of good work that our much lamented friend performed*.

The Record of "Aves" commences, as usual, with a List of the Titles of all works and memoirs relating to Ornithology issued in 1908, arranged in alphabetical order under the authors' names. The Titles are 1949 in number. The corresponding number of Titles in 1907 was 1716.

Next to the "List of Titles" comes the "Subject Index," divided up, as we think, into too many heads, and concluding with the Geographical Index. In the "Subject Index" the titles are not fully repeated, but conveniently referred to by the name of the author and the number of his book or memoir in the "List of Titles."

The third section of the Record of "Aves" is very important for workers in Systematic Ornithology, as it tells us what has been done during the past year in each of the Orders of Birds arranged according to Dr. Sharpe's own system, and in each Family of the Passeres. For example, if working at Paradise-birds, one has only to turn to "Paradiseidæ" in the Systematic Index to find references to the various publications of 1908 in which information has been given on this group and the names of the newly described species. This, we need hardly point out, is a very great convenience to working writers in Ornithology.

Mr. W. L. Selater, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U., has been appointed to succeed the late Dr. Bowdler Sharpe in preparing the section "Aves" for the Zoological Record, and is now at work on the ornithological literature of 1909.

* Altogether Dr. Sharpe prepared the Reports on "Aves" in twenty-five of the forty-five volumes of the 'Zoological Record.'